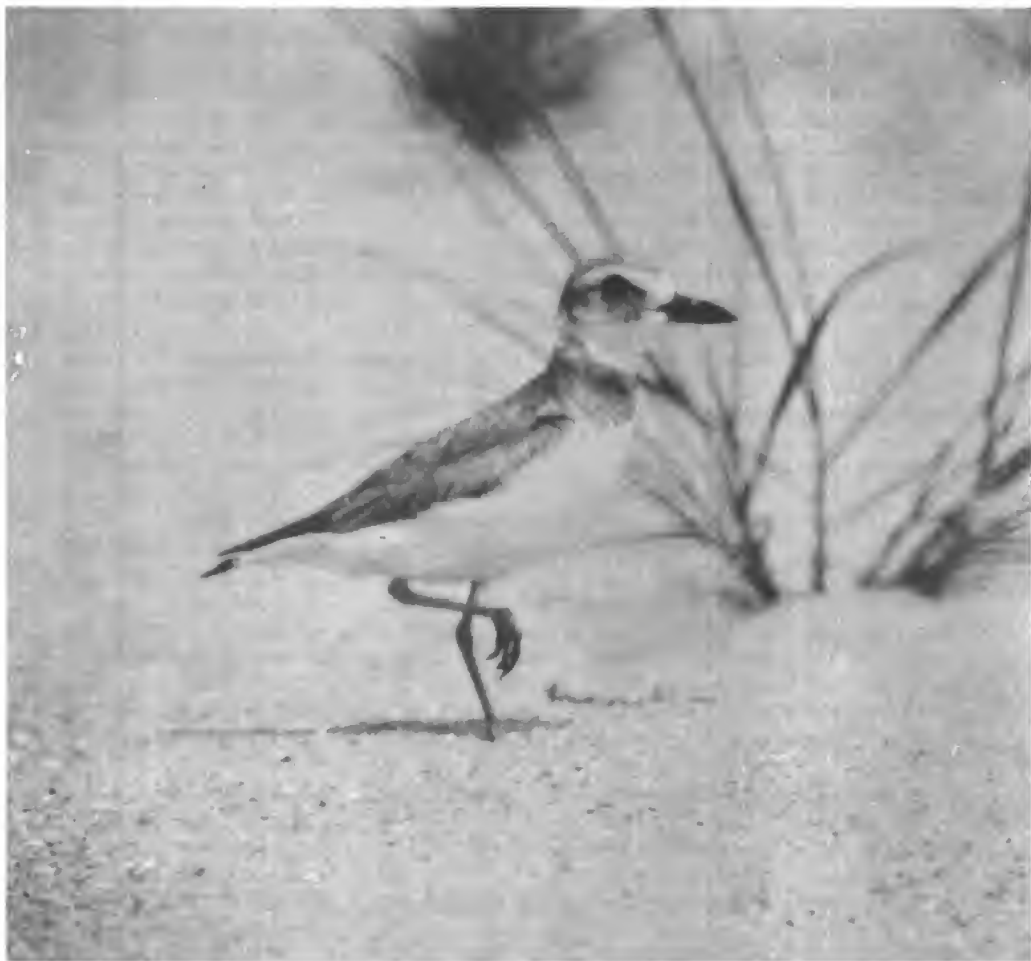


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# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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*Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.*

**JUNE 1984  
VOLUME 40  
NUMBER 2**

# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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Active Membership (adults)	\$5.00 plus local chapter dues
Student Membership (full-time students)	2.00 plus local chapter dues
Junior Membership (under 18 years)	1.00 plus local chapter dues
Family Membership (Mr. & Mrs.)	6.00 plus local chapter dues
Sustaining Membership	10.00 plus local chapter dues
Life Membership	200.00 (4 annual installments)
Member-at-Large	5.00

Cover: Wilson's Plover at Assateague Island, Md., June 12, 1976. Photo by Bob Ringler.



## Winter Season, December 1, 1983-February 29, 1984

Robert F. Ringler

The warm weather of the fall continued into December and the result was numerous shorebirds lingering in the state. Check Tables 1 and 2 for some interesting waterbird counts. A massive cold system moved into the area just before Christmas, sweeping away many of these tardy migrants. The Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) reflect the sudden change if you compare the counts before and during the cold snap. After moderating slightly in January the severe cold set in again on the 20th but this was followed immediately by a heat wave that had many local resident species singing by the end of the month. Most of Chesapeake Bay froze over but had begun to open quickly as the temperature shot upward. Northbound migrants were on the move early in February. Black-capped Chickadees made a good showing on the CBC but the northern finches were only modestly represented. Gulls put on a spectacular show at Conowingo, particularly during the severe cold (Table 3).

**Observers**—Henry Armistead, Rick Blom, Larry Bonham, Danny Bystrak, Martha Chestem, Barry Cooper, David Czaplak, Gus Daniels, Sam Dyke, Jeff Effinger, Ethel Engle, Jerry and Roberta Fletcher, Inez Glime, John Gregoire, Jim Gruber, Alex Hammer, Marvin Hewitt, Dennis Kirkwood, Alicia Knotts, Walter Kraus, Don Meritt, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, John and Michael O'Brien, Fran Pope, Ron Runkles, Bob Schutsky, Steve Simon, Jo Solem, Wally Sumner, Charles Swift, Sallie Thayer, David Wallace, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Steve Westre, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, and Paul Woodward.

**Loons, Grebes.** Mid-winter Common Loons were in Howard County at Triadelphia Reservoir on Feb. 18 (M. Wallace) and in D.C. on Jan. 8 and Feb. 22 (Czaplak). The high count of Pied-billed Grebes for the season was 12 at Loch Raven in Baltimore County on Dec. 14 (Simon). A Horned Grebe was found in a yard in Columbia by Connie Bockstie on Dec. 29 and later released on Rocky Gorge Reservoir. High counts for the season were 29 in D.C. on Dec. 8 (Czaplak), 78 in St. Marys County on Feb. 15 (Wilson), and 15 in Langford Bay on Feb. 18 (Gruber). Red-necked Grebes were reported on Jan. 23 at Point Lookout (Wilson) and Sandy Point (J. O'Brien) where they are unexpected in winter, while birds seen at Ocean City on Feb. 18 (M. O'Brien) and on Wilde Lake in Columbia on Feb. 24 (Steve Whitcomb) were certainly northbound migrants. An Eared Grebe was on Back River on Jan. 16 (Ringler) immediately preceding a snowstorm. Previous winter reports in Maryland are from Ocean City.

**Gannet, Cormorants.** An adult Northern Gannet was seen off Point Lookout on Feb. 15 (Wilson). There were 2 immature Great Cormorants at Ocean City on Dec. 31 (M. O'Brien, Sumner) and a high of 26 at Point Lookout on Jan. 23 was found by

Wilson. Single Double-crested Cormorants off Bay Forest Road in St. Marys County on Feb. 15 (Wilson) and Rock Hall on Feb. 22 (Gruber) may have been premature spring migrants. An unidentified cormorant was in the Susquehanna River near Port Deposit on Dec. 14 (Schutsky).

*Hérons.* Dyke found 8 American Bitterns at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 4. An estimated 125 Great Blue Herons were on Rowland Island in the Susquehanna at Conowingo on Dec. 24 (Ringler, Blom) where 40-50 remained on Feb. 11 (Kirkwood). A Great Egret was also at this location on Jan. 8 (Schutsky +) and another was in the Taylorsville area near Ocean City on Jan. 28 (Sumner). Wintering Black-crowned Night-Hérons included 100 at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 4 (Dyke), 1 at Seneca on Dec. 18 (Harvey Mudd, Warfield +), 3 at the National Zoo on Jan. 28 (Czaplak), 1 at Blackwater and 4 along Elliott Island Road on Jan. 29 (Armistead), and 5 through the season at Conowingo (Schutsky).

*Swans, Geese.* Haven Kolb noted Tundra Swans still migrating southward over Baltimore County on Dec. 17 while Swift saw 5 flocks heading north over Harford County on Feb. 19. Other signs of the coming spring were the 371 Tundra Swans in St. Marys County on Feb. 15 (Wilson), 1500 more in Porters Creek on Feb. 15 down to 800 there on the 22nd (Effinger), 200 flying north over Rock Hall on Feb. 18 (Gruber) and 2000 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 25 (Ringler). A Mute Swan was on Loch Raven through Dec. 21 (Simon). Two Trumpeter Swans that had been raised in a Mute Swan nest in Cranberry Marsh east of Toronto, Ontario spent the winter in St. Michaels. They had hatched from eggs that had been placed under the Mute

Table 1. Waterbirds in Garrett County, December 4, 1983

Compiled by Fran Pope

Species	Broadford Reservoir	Mountain Lake sewage lagoons	Deep Creek Lake main body	Turkey Neck	Total
Common Loon	22		6	14	42
Pied-billed Grebe				4	4
Horned Grebe	1	2			3
Great Blue Heron			1		1
Tundra Swan	5		1		6
Canada Goose			8		8
Wood Duck		2			2
American Black Duck		2		6	8
Mallard	10	7			17
Gadwall	1		1		2
Canvasback	5	7	32		44
Redhead			6		6
Lesser Scaup	10	5	30		45
Oldsquaw	35	2			37
Common Goldeneye	25	5	36	10	76
Bufflehead	30	10	69		109
Hooded Merganser			5		5
Common Merganser	20	3	3		26
Red-breasted Merganser				88	88
Ruddy Duck		2	2		4
Bonaparte's Gull				10	10
Ring-billed Gull	30	10		47	87
Total	194	57	200	179	630

Table 2. Waterbirds at Deal Island Wildlife Management Area, December 1983

Compiled by Don Meritt

Species	12/7	12/14	12/21
Common Loon			2
Pied-billed Grebe	4		1
Great Blue Heron		17	7
Great Egret		60	18
Snowy Egret		28	4
Tricolored Heron			1
Green-backed Heron		4	
Black-crowned Night-Heron		2	37
Tundra Swan	600	900	800
Canada Goose			23
Green-winged Teal		80	
American Black Duck	75	300	300
Mallard	150	400	550
Northern Pintail	600	1500	800
Shoveler	30	250	30
Gadwall	250	550	175
Eurasian Wigeon	2		
American Wigeon	5000	4500	2500
Canvasback	100	90	750
Redhead	1		
Lesser Scaup		1	20
Scaup, sp.	50		
Common Goldeneye			15
Bufflehead			40
Greater Yellowlegs		3	
Dunlin		65	
Total	6862	8750	6073

Swans by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Hubert Allen photographed a possible Whooper Swan among a flock of Tundra Swans in a field near Greensboro in January. The Greater White-fronted Goose continued through the winter at the farm near Creswell in Harford County where it has appeared regularly. An immature Snow Goose was at Piney Run on Dec. 4 (Hammer +) and 15 were there on Feb. 20 (Ringler +). Another was in D.C. on Feb. 5 (Czaplak). The Snow Goose flock on the central Eastern Shore was estimated at 20,000 at Denton on Jan. 2 (Westre) with 3000 at Greensboro on Feb. 24 (Fletchers). The wintering flock of Canada Geese on Loch Raven peaked at 1580 on Jan. 3. (Simon). Large flocks of Canada Geese were heading north on Feb. 19 (many observers).

*Ducks.* There were 6 Wood Ducks at Lilypons on Feb. 25 (D. Wallace) and 1 at Seneca on Feb. 12 (Warfield). A female Green-winged Teal was at Remington Farms on Jan. 28 (Armistead). Dyke estimated 500 American Black Ducks and 1500 Mallards on Little Monie Creek on Jan. 7. Czaplak counted 44 Northern Pintails in D.C. on Dec. 22, 1 was in southern Frederick County during Jan. 21-30 (J. O'Brien) and 40 at Remington Farms on Feb. 19 (Gruber). Dyke estimated 500 Gadwalls at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 4 and at the same location there was a drake Eurasian Wigeon among the 1000 American Wigeons on Feb. 25 (Ringler) where Meritt saw 2 on Dec. 7. Gruber estimated flocks of Canvasbacks massing for the northward flight with 500 at Swan Point near Rock Hall on Feb. 16 and 1500 in Langford Bay

on Feb. 18. With them at the same locations respectively were 2500 Lesser Scaup on the 16th and 1500 on the 18th. Armistead counted 11 Redheads with about 550 Canvasbacks along Elliott Island Road on Jan. 29. Other notable Redheads were 3 at the National Geographic Society pond in Gaithersburg on Jan. 4 (M. O'Brien), 8 at Loch Raven on Jan. 6-9 (Simon), 13 at Berlin on Feb. 4 (Hammer), and 20 at Piney Run on Feb. 18 (Ringler). There were 60 Ring-necked Ducks at Gaithersburg on Feb. 25 (Bonham). Wilson counted 115 Greater Scaup in St. Marys County on Jan. 23 while Armistead estimated 400 Oldsquaws on Feb. 18 off Rigby's Folly in Talbot County. Czaplak found a Surf Scoter in D.C. on Dec. 29 and a White-winged Scoter on Jan. 8. There were 9 Common Goldeneyes at Piney Run on Dec. 4 (Ringler), 101 at Conowingo on Feb. 1 (Schutsky), and 500 in Porters Creek on Feb. 15 and 22 (Effinger). High counts of Buffleheads were 93 in D.C. on Dec. 8 (Czaplak), 24 at Pennyfield on Feb. 12 (Bonham), 250 off Rigby's Folly on Feb. 18 (Armistead), 300 off Swan Point on Feb. 18 (Gruber), and 500 in Porters Creek on Feb. 15 but only 200 there on the 22nd (Effinger). On Feb. 20 there were 40 Hooded Mergansers at Piney Run (Ringler). Common Mergansers numbered 275 on the Susquehanna River at Port Deposit on Dec. 21 (Ringler, Blom), 54 in D.C. on Dec. 29 (Czaplak), 25 at Blackwater on Jan. 29 (Armistead) and 16 there on Feb. 26 (Ringler).

*Diurnal Raptors.* High counts of Black Vultures were 18 at Scotland Beach on Jan. 23 (Wilson), 19 at Bestpitch on Jan. 29 (Armistead), and 123 at Conowingo on Feb. 11 (Schutsky). An Osprey was seen in Salisbury on Dec. 14 (Phyllis White) and 2 early returnees were at Jug Bay on Feb. 19 (Gregoire). High counts of Bald Eagles were 8 (3 adults and 5 immatures) at Conowingo in December (Schutsky) and 34 in southern Dorchester County on Jan. 29 (Armistead). Other reports were an adult at Liberty Reservoir on Dec. 4 (Hammer + ), an immature at Conowingo on Dec. 9 that had been banded on June 10, 1983 at Mt. Desert Island, Maine, an adult and an immature at Beltsville on Dec. 14 with the immature seen again on the 17th (Sumner), 1 at Loch Raven on Dec. 21 and Jan. 6 (Simon), an adult at Georgetown on Dec. 23 (Czaplak), and 1 at Pennyfield on Jan. 30 (J. O'Brien). Rough-legged Hawks were widely reported with 1 at Little Monie Marsh on Dec. 23 (Dyke), 2 (a light phase and a dark phase) at Bestpitch on Dec. 27 (M. O'Brien), at least 2 light phase birds in eastern Caroline County from Jan. 16 through Feb. 18 (Westre + ), 2 light phase birds along Elliott Island Road on Jan. 7 (Wilkinson), 2 light phase birds in southern Frederick County on Jan. 15 (Wilkinson) with at least 1 through Feb. 18, 1 near Wynne in St. Marys County on Jan. 23 (Wilson), and 1 dark phase at Hughes Hollow on Feb. 6 (Woodward). Immature Golden Eagles were reported at Reed Creek in Queen Annes County on Dec. 18 (Lee McCullough, Carol Baldwin) and south of Church Creek on Jan. 29 (Armistead). January reports of Merlins were singles at Lilypons on the 1st (D. Wallace), along U.S. 50 in Worcester County on the 2nd (M. O'Brien), at Tanyard from the 4th to the 11th (Engle), and at American Corner in Caroline County on the 18th (Lester Coble). Single Peregrine Falcons were seen in downtown D.C. on Jan. 25 (Nistico) and near Trappe on Jan. 28 and 30 (Meritt). "Scarlett" laid her first egg in Baltimore on Feb. 27 according to John Barber.

*Pheasant, Rails, Coots, Shorebirds.* A male Ring-necked Pheasant was seen on Feb. 19 at Remington Farms (Gruber) where it was probably released. A King Rail was found at Lilypons on Feb. 12 by Dave Wallace and Mike Welch. A Virginia Rail was at Bestpitch on Jan. 2 (M. O'Brien). High counts of American Coots were 160 at Loch Raven on Dec. 2 (Simon) and 30 in D.C. on Dec. 23 (Czaplak). Late shorebirds at the Hart-Miller impoundment on Dec. 10 were 6 Black-bellied Plovers, a Ruddy



Turnstone, and an extraordinarily late Baird's Sandpiper (Ringler +), the latter one of the latest ever recorded in the eastern United States. There were 6 American Oystercatchers in the Ocean City area on Feb. 24 (Ringler). Greater Yellowlegs were seen at Blackwater, Feb. 18-24, with a high of 6 there on the 18th (M. O'Brien +). A very late Spotted Sandpiper was at Piney Run on Dec. 4 (Hammer +). A Red Knot, rare in winter, was at Ocean City on Feb. 18 (M. O'Brien). Sanderlings on Chesapeake Bay were 1 at Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 11 (Ringler) and 3 at Scotland Beach on Jan. 23 (Wilson). A very late White-rumped Sandpiper was seen in Northeast Creek in Baltimore County on Dec. 3 and 10 (Ringler +). A Purple Sandpiper at Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 11 (Ringler) was the only one reported away from Ocean City. Interesting reports of Dunlins were 3 on Pleasure Island in Baltimore County on Dec. 10 (Ringler +), 210 at Blackwater on Feb. 18 (Armistead +), and 55 at Hooper Island on Jan. 29 (Armistead). Wintering Common Snipe were singles at Rockville on Jan. 6 and in southern Frederick County on Jan. 21 (M. O'Brien), through Jan. 28 at Windy Hill in Talbot County (Meritt), on Elliott Island Road on Jan. 29 (Armistead), and in D.C. on Feb. 4 (Czaplak). A dead American Woodcock was found after striking a window at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in the middle of Baltimore on Feb. 14 (Ringler) and another early migrant was at Point of Rocks on Feb. 18 (Warfield).

*Gulls, Terns.* Most of the gull action this winter occurred at Conowingo Dam where tens of thousands concentrated to feed on fish killed by the generators at the dam (Table 3). Late Laughing Gulls were 2 in D.C. on Dec. 6 (Czaplak), 200 at Back River on Dec. 10, and 20 at Chesapeake Beach the next day (Ringler). An immature Little Gull was at Pleasure Island on Dec. 10 (Ringler) and an adult at

Table 3. Gulls at Conowingo Dam, December 1983 through February 1984  
Compiled by Bob Schutsky

Species	December				January			
	9	14	20	4	6	7	13	14
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Bonaparte's Gull	167	200	10	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-billed Gull	14900	—	—	13000	—	—	—	—
Herring Gull	1050	—	—	24000	—	—	—	—
Thayer's Gull	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Iceland Gull	0	0	1	3	4	5	3	3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	0	0	4	3	4	2	3
Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	1	4	3	1	0
Great Black-backed Gull	1100	—	—	300	—	—	—	—
Species	January				February			
	20	26	1	8	11	15	22	
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bonaparte's Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ring-billed Gull	15000	—	10200	27400	—	—	715	
Herring Gull	20000	—	5000	2000	—	—	17	
Thayer's Gull	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Iceland Gull	2	0	1	4	3	1	0	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	
Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Great Black-backed Gull	8	—	27	28	—	—	45	

A dash indicates that a species was present but not counted that day.

Ocean City on Dec. 31 and Feb. 18 (M.O'Brien). About 500 Bonaparte's Gulls were still at Back River on Dec. 10 (Ringler). On Feb. 20 the following tallies of Ring-billed Gulls were made at inland sites: 1100 at the Reichs Ford landfill in Frederick County, 250 along New Design Road in southern Frederick County, and 1400 at the Hoods Mill landfill in Carroll County. With these were 16 Herring Gulls at Reichs Ford and 65 at Hoods Mill (Ringler). An immature Thayer's Gull was photographed at the Tidal Basin in D.C. on Feb. 12 (Czaplak). Immature Iceland Gulls were in D.C. on Dec. 28 (Czaplak) and at Back River on Dec. 31 (Blom +). Lesser Black-backed Gulls made their usual strong showing, with an adult at the Alpha Ridge landfill in Howard County and another adult at the Eastern landfill in Baltimore County on Dec. 1 (Ringler +), an adult on Back River on Dec. 3 with 2 there on the 31st (Blom +), a second-winter bird at Back River on Dec. 10 (Ringler +), 1 near Berlin on Jan. 7 (Wilkinson), 4 in D.C. on Feb. 4 (Czaplak) with 1 in the Washington Channel on Feb. 11 (Bonham), 1 at Wittman on Feb. 23 (Effinger), and the annual wintering bird at Fort McHenry joined by a second bird on Feb. 26 (Wilkinson). Glaucous Gulls included single birds at Back River on Dec. 3 (Ringler +), Alpha Ridge on Feb. 11 and Ocean City on Feb. 18 (M. O'Brien +). Interesting counts of Great Black-backed Gulls were 340 in D.C. on Jan. 23 (Czaplak), 30 at Blackwater on Jan. 29 (Armistead), 4 at Seneca on the latter date (Warfield), and 3 on the Potomac near Hughes Hollow on Feb. 15 (Woodward). Two late Royal Terns were at Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 11 (Ringler).

*Owls.* Two adult and 2 young Common Barn-Owls were seen near Catholic University in D.C. on Dec. 17 (David Powers). The only reports of Long-eared Owls were 3 at Hughes Hollow in December (Daniels) and 1 near Easton, Jan. 28 through Feb. 21 (Meritt). Short-eared Owls were noted at Deal Island WMA with 2 on Dec. 21 (Meritt) at Bestpitch with 1 on Dec. 27 (M. O'Brien), 2 at Hughes Hollow on Jan. 12 (Woodward), 1 at Jug Bay on Jan. 28 (Gregoire), 2 on Elliott Island Road on Jan. 29 (Armistead), and 3 in eastern Caroline County on Jan. 16 (Westre) and at least 5 there on Feb. 26 (Swift). Daniels also found a Northern Saw-whet Owl at Hughes Hollow in January; it was still present on Feb. 4 (Roger Anderson). Another was at the National Arboretum on Dec. 30 (Czaplak).

*Phoebes, Larks, Swallows.* Eastern Phoebes attempting to winter were at Loch Raven on Dec. 23 (Simon), Beltsville on Jan. 3 (Sumner), Denton on Jan. 7 (Engle), Mechanicsville on Jan. 11 (Runkles), Hughes Hollow on Feb. 15 (Woodward), and Seneca on Feb. 20 (Warfield). The latter 2 may have been early spring migrants. The Horned Lark flock in southern Frederick County was estimated up to 300 in January (M. O'Brien) and another in northwestern Harford County at 100 (Kirkwood). Early migrant Tree Swallows were 1 at Chestertown on Feb. 18 (Gruber), 1 at Blackwater on Feb. 19 (Armistead), and 6 at Assateague on Feb. 25 (Cooper).

*Crows, Ravens, Creepers.* Engle estimated 300 Fish Crows at Tanyard on Dec. 2 and a mixed flock of about 500 crows was at the Reichs Ford landfill on Feb. 20 (Ringler). Warfield saw 2 Northern Ravens at Lander in Frederick County on Feb. 11. Brown Creepers were reported in good numbers this winter.

*Wrens, Robins, Pipits.* A Carolina Wren at Mountain Lake Park on Dec. 1 (Pope) was hanging on during the warm spell. A Marsh Wren was in a small cattail marsh in Rosedale in Baltimore County on Dec. 31 (Ringler). Armistead counted 70 American Robins, the first big flock of spring migration, at Rigby's Folly on Feb. 18. On Jan. 23 Wilson counted a flock of 31 Water Pipits in St. Marys County.



*Waxwings, Shrikes, Warblers.* The only sizeable flocks of Cedar Waxwings reported were 120 in D.C. on Dec. 10 (Czaplak) and 50 in Salisbury on Jan. 30 (Dyke). At least 1 Loggerhead Shrike spent the entire winter at Lilypons (D. Wallace) with 2 nearby along New Design Road on Feb. 18 (Cooper). Another was seen in Kent County on Feb. 25 (Floyd Parks). A Pine Warbler continued coming to a feeder near Lake Shore in Anne Arundel County through Jan. 17 (many observers) and 1 was seen at Patuxent River Park on Jan. 28 (Gregoire). A Common Yellowthroat was at Beltsville on Jan. 3-6 (Sumner).

*Dickcissels, Sparrows.* A male Dickcissel was on Northbend Road in Talbot County on Dec. 23 (Lester Coble). Of 14 American Tree Sparrows banded by Sallie Thayer near Oakland in January and February of 1983 she recaptured 6 on Jan. 13 of this winter and a seventh captured on this date had been banded there on Apr. 10, 1982. For the season she caught 9 of 14 banded in 1983, 2 of 3 banded in 1982, and 1 banded in 1981. An American Tree Sparrow at Greensboro on Feb. 23 (Engle) was rare for Caroline County. Wintering Chipping Sparrows included 3 at Beltsville on Jan. 8 (Sumner), 2 at Federalsburg on Jan. 11 (Glime), and 1 at a Laurel feeder on various dates through the season (Bystrak). A Vesper Sparrow was seen in southern Frederick County on Jan. 21 (M. O'Brien). A Fox Sparrow was a rarity at Blackwater on Feb. 19 (Armistead). The high count of White-crowned Sparrows at Lilypons was 26 on Feb. 12 (D. Wallace). A Harris' Sparrow remained at the feeder of David Strubin near Hampstead in Carroll County from mid-December through the period and was seen by hundreds of observers.

*Longspurs, Snow Buntings.* Lapland Longspurs were seen in southern Frederick County from Jan. 15 through Feb. 18 with a high of at least 8 on Jan. 29 (Cooper). Another was at Sandy Point on Dec. 3-4 (Jim Cubie) and 2 in northwestern Harford County on Jan. 29 (Kirkwood). Snow Bunting reports included 22 at Sandy Point on Dec. 3 (Jim Cubie), 9 there on Feb. 18 (M. O'Brien), 15 between D.C. Village and Oxon Hill Children's Farm on Jan. 5 (Czaplak), 2 in northwestern Harford County on Jan. 17 (Kirkwood), and up to 3 in southern Frederick County from Jan. 15 through Feb. 18 (Wilkinson +).

*Blackbirds, Orioles, Grosbeaks.* A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Golden Beach in St. Marys County on Feb. 25 (Andy Hicks). There were 30 Rusty Blackbirds at Lilypons on Feb. 25 (D. Wallace), probably an early migrant flock. In Baltimore County single "Baltimore" Orioles were in Villa Nova in December (Gerald Wilson) and on Warren Road from some time in December (Dave Putman). The only large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks reported were 50 at Rockville on Dec. 1 (M. O'Brien) and 24 at Lilypons on Dec. 11 (D. Wallace).

3501 Melody Lane, Baltimore, MD 21207

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 1984**

**OPERATING FUND**

Fund Balance, April 30, 1983.....	\$21,879.09
<b>Income:</b>	
Dues .....	\$10,108.00
Transfer from Sanc. Endow. Income (Life Memb. Cost) . . .	408.00
Convention .....	688.00
Interest from Pooled Funds .....	1,538.62
Sale of Publications .....	69.00
Baltimore Chap. Contrib. for Use of Bulk Mail Permit . . . .	20.00
Donations-General .....	2,205.00
Donations-Atlas .....	10,020.32
Decal Sales .....	76.75
<b>Total Receipts.....</b>	<b>25,133.69</b>

**Expenditures:**

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE, Printing .....	2,050.00
MARYLAND BIRDLIFE, Postage and Supplies .....	713.50
MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT, Printing .....	2,020.00
MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT, Postage and Supplies .	474.45
Executive Secretary Stipend .....	2,400.00
Executive Secretary, Postage .....	358.68
Bulk Mailing Permits .....	80.00
Bulk Mailing (Convention flyers) .....	116.38
Membership List Maintenance .....	257.83
Printing and Duplication .....	683.60
Office Supplies and Miscellaneous .....	657.11
Atlas Committee .....	12,846.78
Eagle Committee .....	91.68
Verification Committee .....	104.71
Convention Expenses .....	719.84
Affiliations and Memberships .....	175.00
Contingencies .....	159.49
<b>Total Expenditures .....</b>	<b>23,909.05</b>
Fund Balance, April 30, 1984 .....	23,322.71

**SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND**

Fund Balance, April 30, 1983 .....	32,139.46
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Interest from Investments .....	2,021.25
Interest from Pooled Funds .....	62.97
Donations .....	20.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Transfer to Operating Fund for Life Members .....	408.00
Transfer to Sanctuary Fund .....	1,675.95
<b>Fund Balance, April 30, 1984 .....</b>	<b>32,159.46</b>

## MOS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Fund Balance, April 30, 1983.....	18,270.49
Contributions, General.....	5,922.82
Amateur Gardener's Club.....	400.00
World Nature Association.....	1,225.00
Interest from Investments.....	852.74
Interest from Pooled Funds.....	1,020.56
<b>Total Receipts.....</b>	<b>9,421.12</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Helen Miller Scholarships.....	1,170.00
Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship.....	385.00
Orville Crowder Scholarship.....	585.00
Amateur Gardner's Club Scholarship.....	585.00
Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship.....	385.00
<b>Total Expenditures.....</b>	<b>3,110.00</b>
<b>Fund Balance, April 30, 1984.....</b>	<b>24,581.61</b>
<b>Receipt of deposits for Convention rooms and meals.....</b>	<b>11,302.00</b>

## SANCTUARY FUND

Fund Balance, April 30, 1983.....	\$27,458.68
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Contributions.....	\$4,077.35
Transfer from Sanctuary Endowment Fund.....	1,675.95
Interest from Pooled Funds.....	3,608.56
Sale of Sanctuary Signs.....	45.25
Oil and Gas Lease.....	15.84
Use of Sanctuaries.....	431.45
Convention Raffle Proceeds.....	282.00
	10,136.40
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Carey Run Maintenance.....	800.00
Carey Run Fire Insurance.....	129.00
Irish Grove Maintenance.....	2,332.12
Irish Grove Utilities.....	366.70
Irish Grove Fuel.....	455.60
Irish Grove Taxes.....	1,002.82
Irish Grove Fire Insurance.....	320.86
Irish Grove Incidentals including new stove.....	419.14
tum Suden Maintenance.....	1,871.60
tum Suden Fire Insurance.....	213.00
General Liability Insurance.....	787.00
Sanctuary Committee Expenses.....	120.43
	8,818.27
<b>Fund Balance, April 30, 1984.....</b>	<b>28,776.81</b>

### Reconciliation of Accounts at End of Fiscal Year

#### Fund Balances, April 30, 1984:

Operating Fund .....	23,322.71	
MOS Scholarship Fund .....	24,581.61	
Sanctuary Fund .....	28,776.81	
Sanctuary Endowment Fund .....	32,159.46	108,840.59

#### Fund Assets, April 30, 1984:

Checking Account, Suburban Bank	
Pooled Funds.....	1,874.95
Savings Account, Loyola Federal	
Pooled Funds .....	231.52
Money Market Account, Loyola Federal	
Pooled Funds.....	27,957.86
T. Rowe Price Prime Reserve Fund	
Pooled Funds.....	47,483.33
Uncashed checks awaiting deposit	
Pooled Funds .....	252.00
Southwestern Bell Co. (bond)	
Operating Fund Inv. ....	10,171.25
Dayton Power and Light (bond)	
Scholarship Invest. ....	3,012.67
Virginia Electric Power (Bond)	
Scholarship Invest. ....	3,992.04
T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Sanctuary Endowment ...	10,043.05
Gen'l Telephone Co., SE (bond) Sanctuary Endowment ..	5,129.92
Niagara Mohawk Power Co. (bond)	
Sanctuary Endowment .....	4,983.15
Ohio Bell Telephone Co. (bond)	
Sanctuary Endowment.....	4,987.81
Hagerstown P.O. Permit account balance .....	23.04
Set aside from Loyla MM acc't for Convention dep. . . ( - 11,302.00)	
<b>Total Fund Assets, April 30, 1984 .....</b>	<b>108,840.59</b>

### AUDITING COMMITTEE

I have examined the financial records of the Maryland Ornithological Society for the year April 30, 1983 through April 30, 1984. In my opinion the aforementioned records accurately present the financial position of the Society.

*Rodney B. Jones, Chairman*

We regret that one page of last year's Treasurer's Report was inadvertently omitted from the June 1983 issue. It is printed on the next page — Ed.

## MOS Scholarship Fund 1982-83

Income	Budget	Actual	Balances
			\$18,919.78
Contributions-General	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,065.00	(4/30/82)
Amateur Gardeners Club	320	400.00	
World Nature Club	575	575.00	
Interest-Investments	850	858.88	
Pooled Funds	934	1,012.30	
	4,179	3,911.18	3,911.18
			22,830.96
Outgo			
Helen Miller Scholarship	1,150	1,855.00	
Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship	500	395.00	
Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship	575	1,215.00	
Amateur Gardeners Club of Balto. Scholarship	320	640.00	
Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship	0	395.00	
	2,545	4,500.00	4,500.00
			18,270.49

## Sanctuary Fund Expenditures, 1982-83

Carey Run-General Maintenance	695	0	
Utilities	97	0	
Fuel (Propane)	35	0	
Fire Insurance	90	112.00	
Incidentals	100	0	
Irish Grove-General Maintenance	449	0	
Utilities			
Electric	578.27		
Phone	462.68		
Reimbursement by J. Stasz	-1,228.27	385	-187.32
Fuel (kerosene & propane)		490	281.50
Taxes		832	932.04
Fire Insurance		228	277.00
Incidentals			
Mower	170.00		
Vacuum cleaner	108.94		
Refrigerator	514.99	100	793.93
Mill Creek-General Maintenance		230	0
tum Suden-General Maintenance		175	197.50
Utilities (Electric)		90	56.18
Fuel (Propane)		450	311.70
Fire Insurance		213	201.00
Incidentals (mowing)		100	120.00
General Liability Insurance		515	709.00
Sanctuary Brochures		600	0
General Contingency			
Sanctuary signs-purchase	692.41		
Sanctuary signs-postage	34.81		
Committee phone calls, postage	114.67	300	841.89
		6,174	4,644.42
			4,644.42
Sanctuary Fund Balance, April 30, 1983			27,458.68

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Conference Committee planned and held the 1984 M.O.S. Convention at Frostburg State College. This was the first convention to be held in Western Maryland in over 30 years. The new location, low prices and later date combined to make this the best attended convention ever — 414 people attended.

There was a wide variety of field trips to Western Maryland and neighboring West Virginia. Trip participants saw a total of 154 species of birds and several mammals including one bobcat. Highlights among the birds were breeding Soras and Pied-billed Grebes, a Wilson's Phalarope, and many Ravens and Wild Turkeys. Golden-winged Warblers were plentiful and many participants saw them for the first time. The Ruffed Grouse proved elusive and only one field trip had a glimpse of this much-wanted bird.

There were workshops on field identification and nature photography, an entertaining talk by Peter Dunne on the Fall Migration at Cape May and a display of Atlas maps generated from the first year's data. A Social Hour was included in the schedule and gave everyone a chance to relax and reestablish old friendships. The raffle and silent auction raised over \$1600 for the Atlas Project.

I would like to thank Mary Twigg of Cumberland and Helen Ford of Annapolis for their assistance which was instrumental in making this convention a success. All of the members of the Allegany County Chapter pitched in and helped out in many ways. The field trip leaders were faced (in some cases) with unfamiliar territory and large groups, but they met the challenge and made the field trips the most enjoyable and memorable part of the Convention.

All in all, I think we succeeded in introducing Western Maryland to members from other parts of the state, and in showing everybody an enjoyable and instructive time.

*Tony White, Chairman*

### SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Regional meetings of the Sanctuary Committee were held in the western, central, and eastern areas of Maryland. Workdays were held at Irish Grove and Carey Run Sanctuaries, and policies were formulated on land acquisition and on residency.

A new roof was put on the Irish Grove house, propane stoves installed in the kitchen and dining room, new rugs were placed in the dining room and foyer, the kitchen was painted, and grounds and trails maintained. A stove was installed in the kitchen at Carey Run Sanctuary, a chair was donated to replace the sofa, and various improvements were made inside and out. Grounds and trails were maintained, and orchard grafts were completed. A new registration procedure was successfully implemented. The Atlas Project Director and his family are in residence at tum Suden Sanctuary. Adventure, Mill Creek, Mandares Creek, Pelot, and Seymour B. Cooper sanctuaries are in excellent condition.

*Benjamin F. Poscover, Chairman*



## EAGLE COMMITTEE

The definitive Eagle habitat management publication has been funded by the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) in recognition of their direct interest in the project. PEPCO, at Chalk Point, Prince George's County, hosts the first of three Eagle nests in that county. When discovered in 1982, that nest was the first in the county in almost 20 years. The National Wildlife Federation will manage the production of the publication which grew out of our ad hoc meetings with concerned agencies. We hope to see it in distribution by fall of this year.

There have been no Eagle related incidents reported in Maryland through May 15, 1984. We remain in contact with federal and state law enforcement officials on a monthly basis.

As a result of the By-laws Committee action at the last meeting (establishing a paragraph on the Eagle Committee in the Manual of Operation), the Eagle Committee found itself illegal in that we had only four of the required five members. To rectify the situation, Mr. Greg Kearns (Jug Bay) has volunteered to join the committee. Response to our appeal for a qualified member from each chapter has been disappointing; with Greg, only four chapters have responded. Representation from the Eastern shore is critical.

1984 banding is in progress and going quite well. Preliminary reports indicate some loss of nests from the severe winds experienced earlier this year. Some Eastern Shore nests produced very early hatchlings. It appears that we will band the same number, or slightly more than last year (95-100). A detailed report will be submitted to the Yellowthroat in early fall.

*CDR John Gregoire, Chairman*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The composition of the MOS Education Committee changed in January 1984. President Chestem appointed Jim Cheevers as Chairman in relief of Dr. Roger Herriott and added Tad Eareckson (Anne Arundel Chapter) to the Committee. Continuing on the Committee are Chan Robbins, Charlie Vaughn, and Roger Herriott.

An MOS Junior Achievement Award in Ornithology was presented in February 1984 to John T. Goodin of Rockville. Goodin has worked at the Adventure Sanctuary banding station for three years, won grand prize at 1983 Montgomery County Science Fair and third prize at International Science Fair for his project entitled "Bird Survival Rates and Ages." The award was given in appropriate ceremony conducted by President Chestem at the Montgomery Chapter meeting. The Committee also attended and examined projects at the Baltimore Science Fair on March 31, but found no ornithological projects.

The MOS Speakers List 1981-82 was updated, reprinted, and is available to all Chapters. Thirty-nine volunteers responded to notices mailed out and well over one hundred programs are offered for Chapters to make selections to aid development of lecture series.

It is planned to coordinate the 1984 MOS Listers Trip in October. Begun in 1975 the field trip for the members of all Chapters begins at Bombay Hook National

Wildlife Refuge, continues down the coast to Chincoteague and returns via Blackwater. Announcement of details will be sent to all Chapters and notice placed in *Maryland Yellowthroat*.

*James W. Cheevers, Chairman*

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

This year the Long Range Planning Committee focused on topics given priority by President Cullom.

We were asked to consider the feasibility of establishing a Baltimore-based taped "hotline" for rare bird sightings in Maryland. After discussion, this committee recommended that if a "hotline" were to be established it would be better envisioned as a Baltimore Chapter project with some state MOS funding. The reasons for that decision were as follows: Baltimore birders constitute the single largest group in MOS and it is primarily these individuals who would benefit from the line; Washington-area birders would continue to find it easier (and probably cheaper) to call the "Voice of the Naturalist"; it is unlikely that many birders from the Eastern Shore and the far western portion of Maryland would use a Baltimore based line on a regular basis because of long distance charges (an 800 number suggested by a number of individuals is expensive); and much of the material on such a line would duplicate the ANS sponsored "Voice."

Long Range Planning Committee members continue to be concerned with the Society's image emphasizing the importance of increasing our visibility with the general public. Until MOS is widely recognized as THE birding authority in the state, we will continue to suffer from being overlooked and underestimated (not to mention confused with various Audubon societies). This recognition can come only from more consistent publicity and vigorous recruitment of new members.

Within the last two months a member of the Maryland Chapter of The Nature Conservancy contacted MOS indicating an interest in meeting with a few of our members to examine jointly the land acquisition programs of both organizations over the next decade. The long term cooperation of these two societies could have exciting implications, especially for our sanctuary program.

*Joanne K. Solem, Chairman*

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee advertised the research grants in the Ornithological Newsletter. No proposals were received, hence no grants awarded. The only request for further information came from France.

*Margaret Hubbard Jones, Chairman*

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

From a group of eleven very fine candidates the Scholarship Committee has chosen the following winners of the four scholarships awarded annually for attendance at the National Audubon Ecology Workshops.

Ms. Patricia H. Cornman, Staff Naturalist at the Irvine Natural Science Center, is winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine.

Ms. Rose Marie Jirsa, Biology Teacher at the Catonsville Senior High School, also is a winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending an Audubon Ecology Camp.

Mr. Michael J. Baker, Naturalist with the Baltimore City Bureau of Parks, is winner of the Amateur Gardeners' Club of Baltimore Scholarship. He will be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West.

Mr. Jose Barata, Science Specialist at the Maryland Science Center and Science Teacher at the Park Middle School, is winner of the Orville W. Crowder Memorial Scholarship. He will be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West.

The drive to permanently fund a second scholarship for training in ornithology has been successful. We are especially grateful for three very generous contributions received from Jane Daniels, long term active member of the Baltimore Chapter, the contribution from the Baltimore Chapter itself, and for the prospective allocation from an anonymous donation of stock to MOS. This scholarship is the second of a pair of scholarships honoring the founders of our Scholarship Fund. First the Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship and now the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship. We are grateful to all who helped make this fund drive a success.

From an excellent group of nine candidates the Scholarship Committee chose the following winners of our two ornithology scholarships.

Mark Hoffman, Naturalist at the Irvine Natural Science Center, is winner of the Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship. He will attend the Field Ornithology Workshop at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

Celeste Tiller, Elementary School Teacher at Worcester County School, is winner of the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship. She also will be attending the Field Ornithology Workshop at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

The Committee is appreciative to all the chapters who have helped locate these fine candidates for our scholarships. We know from past experience that they will use the information and inspiration gained from attending these Audubon Camps to the benefit of all with whom they work or have contact. We are grateful to all who so generously support the Scholarship programs of our Society.

*Mildred E. Gebhard, Chairman*

## **Annual Reports of Local Chapters**

### **ANNE ARUNDEL CHAPTER**

From October through March the Anne Arundel Chapter had six excellent programs at their regular monthly meetings. These programs were on: local birds and flowers, western wildlife, the Shy Albatross, gull identification, and acid rain.

In April we presented our Richard E. Heise, Jr. Annual Wildlife Program featuring Dr. Donald Messersmith speaking on "First Birding Trips to Northeast China." This program brought in enough money so that our Chapter could send \$400.00 to the M.O.S. to be split between the Scholarship and Sanctuary Funds.

We conducted 21 Field Trips which spotted over 230 species of birds. These trips ranged from local half day trips to weekend trips to the coasts of Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey. Our Christmas Count, led by co-compilers Hal Wierenga and Wayne Klockner, had 59 participants who found a total of 108 species. About 40 of these people enjoyed hot soup and swapping tales of the day's events at the tally-up which was held at the home of Dick and Pat Chiles in South Haven. Our May Count, compiled by Ellen Gizzarelli, had 14 observers in 10 parties and found 161 species.

This year we have started having newsletters to complement the annual program. Four newsletters were produced this year giving reports of past events, alerting members of changes in the program and telling about forthcoming events.

We are now looking forward to preparing another year's program. We extend an invitation to any who would like to join us in these events.

*Dorothy Mumford, President*

## CAROLINE COUNTY CHAPTER

The Caroline County Bird Club continued to meet on the second Friday of the month in the educational building of St. Lukes Methodist Church in Denton. Robert Ringler talked on field identification. Dr. Robert Trever gave a program on birding on the Galapagos Islands. L.T. Short showed slides of local birds and wildflowers. At the February meeting Rick Blom and Robert Ringler gave an update on the Atlas project.

Club members put together over 100 bluebird houses during the year. Some of the houses were put up around the county with 20 going to Tuckahoe State Park and some were sold. There are always houses for sale at Smith Ford in Denton. Wood has already been bought for another 100 bluebird houses and there plans to start building Wood Duck houses. A bird seed sale was held on October 29th and amazingly enough the mountain of bird seed was gone by the end of the day. Mariana Nuttle continued to sell seed to members and friends the rest of the winter.

There were three field trips. A trip to Bombay Hook at the end of August would have been better if without rain, but the birds were there and that made up for having to do most of our birding from inside a van. We went to Blackwater in November and Tuckahoe State Park in May.

*Steve Westre, President*

## HARFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

The 1983-1984 year was a very busy & fulfilling one. Our membership stands at 120. We have continued to hold bi-monthly meetings at the Churchville Presbyterian Church.

Our first activity was our annual picnic and birdwalk hosted by Col. & Mrs. Leland Devore at their "Parade Rest" estate. Thirty-six members attended. The host devised a competitive birding game which was a big success.

Our dinner meetings were well attended. The November meeting featured Robert C. Chance. Bob spent 25 days in Kenya and told us of his adventures in mountain climbing, and in viewing and photographing wild animals and birds. In January, Lisa Nowakowski, a local herpetologist, gave a very interesting talk about turtles, crocodiles, and snakes. She brought many of her "pets" with her. None escaped. The March meeting featured our own Paul Hines and his buffaloes. On tape, we saw Paul feeding his buffaloes apples, and chasing them with his truck to make them run. For our final meeting in May, our members enjoyed Laura Swallow's "feather paintings", and Bill Lemley's and Pat Fetcher's bird carvings.

Our field trips included local trips to Susquehanna State Park, Muddy Run, Aberdeen Proving Ground, and Elk Neck State Park. We also took trips to Bombay Hook NWR, Little Creek Wildlife Area, Eastern Neck Island, and Blackwater NWR. Trips were much better attended than in previous years with a high of 35 members attending the Aberdeen Proving Ground Trip.

For the 5th consecutive year, a White-fronted Goose has appeared at the Mitchell's farm pond. The Mitchells are active members, and are very receptive to those desiring to see the "Specklebelly."

Some interesting birds reported in Harford County included Pine Siskins, American Bitterns, Bald and Golden Eagles, Red-headed Woodpeckers, a Saw-whet Owl, Iceland Gull, Pileated Woodpeckers, and hordes of Black-capped Chickadees.

Harford County's birdbander, Barbara Bilsborough, assisted by Nancy Roberts, continues to band at several stations. During the past year they banded 655 birds of 55 species. New netted birds for our records included Traill's Flycatcher, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

One of our members, Paul Ford, was a recipient of the Chan Robbins Scholarship. He had a most delightful experience at Cornell.

On a sadder note, George Drumm, who in 1949 made the motion to organize a group of nature lovers into a club known as the Harford County Bird Club, passed away. He was a charter member.

The chapter did face the realities of inflation, and voted for a dues increase.

Members took an active part in the Christmas Count, the Spring Count, the Breeding Bird Atlas, and 18 persons attended the State Convention in Frostburg.

Our chapter can look back over an interesting year, and ahead for more to come.

*Kermit "Spike" Updegrove, President*

## HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

In 1983/1984, the Howard Chapter continued to grow and reached a total of 280 members, an increase of 38 members over 1982/1983.

We were pleased to have a cover feature article on the Chapter published in several large local weekly newspapers (the *Columbia Flier*, the *Howard County Times*, and the *Laurel Leader*). The article very positively portrayed our Chapter and birding in general. It certainly made friends for MOS and created good will in our County through its delightful vibrance.

Our monthly meetings, coordinated by Eva Sunell, covered many topics and Linda Harsey kept us in the field with a varied list of trips. The bookstore headed by Jan Randle, and the Hospitality table enlivened our meetings and other activities.

The bi-monthly newsletter produced by Jo Solem kept us united and informed. Jon E. Boone's illustrated bird identification articles were welcome and informative. Our semi-annual seed sales, chaired by Eileen Clegg, enabled the Chapter to maintain our low membership fee and allowed us to donate to worthwhile projects.

Our exhibit at the Howard County Recreation Exposition, held in the Columbia Mall, was chaired by Eileen Clegg. The exhibit featured our mounted bird specimens and was a popular spot. The specimens present an opportunity for Expo attendees to talk to Chapter members freely.

Mike McClure coordinated our participation in the Howard County Fair. This year we again featured the mounted bird specimens and asked attendees questions concerning breeding birds to help with our atlas work. We even picked up some non-Howard atlas information which was passed on to other County Coordinators.

Our Fall Birding Workshop, coordinated by Anne Hart attracted new people and provided a varied, entertaining program of displays, presentations, and local walks. The Central Library location is perfect for such a workshop since it is always crowded. Birders and readers seem to have an affinity; perhaps the Red-shouldered Hawks and the Eastern Bluebirds that nest on the edge of the parking lot know this!

Bluebirds continue to thrive at the Howard County Library (14 fledged young) in the "summer homes" provided by Clif Grant. Clif also sells his boxes, at what we suspect is below cost, to Chapter members.

We continued our co-sponsorship of Bluebird Trails with the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks and the North American Bluebird Society. Although 39 Eastern Bluebirds were fledged, the 146 House Wrens, 16 Carolina Chickadees, and 4 Tufted Titmice may require renaming the Trail to the "Cavity Nesters Trail."

One of the highlights of the year was a reception and dinner honoring Chandler S. Robbins, senior author, *Birds of North America*. The occasion celebrated the publication of the revised edition of the popular field guide. The reception was held in the beautiful Florence Bain Senior Center and Monika Botsai coordinated the delicious food donations by Chapter members. Jan Randle handled the sale of guides which Chan graciously autographed. The proceeds were donated to the MOS Sanctuary Fund at Chan's request and in his name.

The dinner which followed the reception was held at the Columbia Inn and was attended by 55 people representing seven MOS Chapters. Three past MOS presidents and Martha Chestem MOS President attended. Chan was presented with a life membership in the Howard Chapter which was obtained by Mike McClure and framed by Grazina McClure. Chan's remark that he rarely saw his



fellow birders in their "evening molt" captured the festive atmosphere of the occasion.

Although several sightings new to the County are now in the hands of the Records Committee, David Holmes, Howard County Bird list compiler, reported 1983 was not a notable year for species count. However, in early 1984, enough rarities were present to keep Rare Bird Alert members on the phone. Bea Newkirk and her committee alerted us to the Red-necked Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Caspian Terns and an out of county rarity, Harris' Sparrow.

Our Atlas project coordinated by Chuck Dupree is proceeding on schedule. Our members continue to share their expertise with the community and 19 educational presentations were made to over 1,000 participants.

At the end of my term, I want to add a personal note of thanks to Chapter members for making my two years as president a personally rewarding and pleasurable experience.

*Jane H. Farrell, President*

## JUG BAY CHAPTER

The Jug Bay Bird Club was formed, and by-laws accepted in February 1984. On March 31st we petitioned for acceptance as the fifteenth chapter of MOS. Our application was approved and we have begun operations. As our first fiscal year will begin coincident with the MOS fiscal year, we do not have a financial report for this year. Membership dues will be submitted for the 1984/1985 year in early August.

The Jug Bay chapter intends to remain active throughout the year. We have met this goal early by scheduling eight major activities between formation and 1 September. Other notable accomplishments include the creation and dissemination of a first class newsletter, sponsorship of a new Bluebird trail to honor the State's anniversary and Prince George's County's bird, creation of a fund to provide an educational display facility on birds of the Patuxent at Jug Bay, addition of two new research projects to three ongoing efforts, sponsorship of the local May and Jug Bay Christmas counts and a fantastic growth in new membership. As of 17 May, our membership stood at 37 addresses with 33 of these being new for MOS. With over fifty people, the chapter is off to a fantastic start.

## KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

Monthly meetings were held from September through June. Attendance varied from 25 to 30 except for the November meeting at which about 100 were present. The November meeting was sponsored to raise money for the Chapter by ticket sales at \$2 for adults, \$1 for students and children. Although the lecture was well received and stimulated some interest in our Chapter, it did not prove to be a good means of raising money. If it had not been for several generous sponsors, our ticket sales would only have met expenses.

Fewer persons participated in field trips and feeder watches than attended the meetings. However, those who did participate appreciated this diversity in the Chapter's activities.

Several of our members took part in the Christmas Bird Count, the May Count, and the Atlas program. Despite efforts to enlarge our membership, it still remains at around 60.

*Steve Hitchner, President*

## PATUXENT CHAPTER

The Patuxent Bird Club made several changes this year which hopefully will bring us new growth. Bill Murphy has been sending postcards and sometimes newsletters to members to remind them of the meeting and speaker each month. This effort seems to have increased attendance at the monthly meetings considerably. In addition, the meeting location was moved this year from St. Phillip's Episcopal Church to the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center. The new meeting place is warm in winter and air conditioned in summer and is easily accessible from Route 1 or the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Chapter dues were raised to cover the expense of the newsletter. Chapter by-laws were revised to conform with State by-laws.

On April 9, Bill Murphy led a field trip to a pine-oak woods bordering an oxbow lake of the Middle Patuxent River east of Laurel. Spicebush and Mayflower were in bloom. The birds included Pied-billed Grebe, Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebirds, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Pine Warbler.

On April 20, Chan Robbins led a field trip to the Patuxent River Park at Hispley Mill Road, where we joined members of the Maryland Conservation Council and a representative of the Department of Natural Resources. We discussed the possibility of the state designating the area as Wildland to be managed for scientific, education, and recreational use.

On May 1, a beautiful, warm, sunny day, Chan Robbins led a field trip to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Eighty-four species including 15 warbler species, Bobolinks, Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks were sighted in five hours.

At our April meeting, Ms. Martha Van der Voort of the World Wildlife Fund told us about "Birds and Birding Habitats in Veracruz and Yucatan, Mexico."

At the annual Members' Night in May Paul Nistico showed slides of birds in North Carolina, Texas, Oregon, Washington and California; Luther Goldman had slides of birds of the Santa Ana Refuge, Amchitka (Alaska), Texas, Colorado, and the Dakotas; Bill Murphy had slides of an osprey at Rehoboth dragging plastic from a six-pack, an American Bittern, Least Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Magpie, etc. as well as birds from Trinidad and Tobago.

Other programs were presented by Chan Robbins about the Maryland Atlas Project and the Manomet Belize expedition; and Bob Solem showed the plants of Nassawango Preserve.

Our annual picnic was held at Scott's Cove at Rocky Gorge Reservoir.

In September, Mr. Pieter de Marozoyens spoke about the World Wildlife Fund's Minimum Critical Size of Ecosystems project in his talk entitled "Banding in Brazil."

In October, Ms. Daphne de Gemmill showed slides of her banding of Snow Geese at Churchill, Manitoba. The banding could be done only during the ten days when adult geese are flightless (in molt) and the young have not yet grown flight feathers.

In November Dr. Marshall Howe, Section Leader, Migratory Non-gamebird Studies at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center spoke about shorebirds.

In January, Dr. Robert Whitcomb, research entomologist in Insect Pathology at BARC presented a program entitled "Asian Impressions." The slides were accompanied by a recording of Chinese popular music.

In February, Jay Sheppard of the Endangered Species Office showed slides of endangered and threatened plants, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals.

In March, Bill Murphy showed slides of many of the birds resident in the Caribbean islands of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as some of the birds that winter there and return to our forests or farther north to nest.

*William L. Murphy, President*

## BOOK REVIEWS

### THE BIRDWATCHER'S ACTIVITY BOOK

Donald S. Heintzelman. 1983. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pa. 250p. \$11.95

We are all so consumed by passion for watching "our" birds that it wouldn't occur to us that we might need someone to give us directions for pursuing the course of this activity in our lives. Surprisingly, this book makes it obvious that there are some other things we could be doing as we carry our binoculars around the state or the world. Well, let's see what Heintzelman suggests we might do. Watch bird behavior, he says. Our atlasing has made us acutely aware of bird behavior for the last 10 years. So that's not new. Do some city birdwatching is another suggestion. Certainly if nothing else could get us to do that, Scarlett's continuous presence since 1978 has done it. So that's not new. Locality bird watching, another of Heintzelman's ideas, is as old as the MOS itself. We got our start at Lake Roland and we've been visiting it regularly at least a dozen times a year ever since. Projects with waterfowl and birds of prey are still other suggestions that are familiar subjects to anyone who has been observing Maryland birdlife with the MOS for even a short time, if nothing else, reinforcing the value of active membership in MOS. The author does include valuable listings of additional readings at the end of each chapter. When selecting books for one's own personal library Heintzelman warns his reader to be wary of the book reviewer who may reflect his or her own bias. Does my bias show that I may think this is just another "how to..." book? He even has a part on embroidered shoulder patches! Perhaps the program chairman or even the chapter president would benefit from having this book. The rest of us don't need it.

*Joy Wheeler*

## A GUIDE TO BIRD BEHAVIOR, VOLUME II

Donald W. Stokes and Lillian Q. Stokes. 1983. Little, Brown and Company, 205 Lexington Avenue, NY 10016. 334p. \$14.95.

Atlas workers know the value of Donald Stokes' Guide to the Behavior of Common Birds (1979). Its full descriptions of the mix of bird behavior indicating courtship and nesting have led to quicker and more certain confirmation of the 25 common birds included in its well-organized chapters. Volume II continues the excellent organization using Display Guides, Behavior Calendars, and Behavior Descriptions for 25 more common species and guarantees additional success with the Atlas. A Feeder Behavior section has been added for those birds out of the 25 that are often seen at feeders, a location at which many of us do our most intense behavior watching when we're not out atlas-ing. Neither volume is the kind you need to sit down and read through, though you'll find yourself using each one so repeatedly that sooner or later you will have completed the books, ready to use them again to reinforce your findings in the field. Donald and Lillian Stokes have collaborated to identify and classify the amazing amount of purposeful behavior of the birds in this second list of 25, from the Ank-call of the nuthatch to the Zee-call of the Indigo Bunting. Black and white "portraits" of each bird and line drawings of the various bird postures add interest and clarity to each chapter. Check lists of Nests and Displays, Glossary, and Bibliography provide handy references at the back of the book. Stokes Nature Guides are naturals for your bookshelves. There are more to come.

*Joy Wheeler*

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